(b) and (c) The National Sericulture Project (NSP) outlay of Rs. 555 crores includes credit component of Rs. 165 crores for on & of farm activities. The shortfall in credit flow under NSP is attributed largely to factors like defaults, inaligibility of bank branches to finance etc. However, the slow pace of credit flow has not resulted in a delay in establishing infrastructure, extension of mulberry acreage *etc.* envisaged under the project.

In order to speed up the credit flow under NSP, the Central Silk Board has organised a large number of workshops and orientation programmes.

Revival of Country's Jute Economy

785. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Wll the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered committee under chairmanship of the Secretary Ministry of Textiles has recommended a comprehensive policy package for the revival of the country's jute economy; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the package and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The thrust of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee is that the future of the jute sector lies in the recognition of the full potential of jute as a fibre in diversified and applications. Technical advances and price factors render it impossible for the jute economy to sustain its existence on the production of packaging materials alone. It is, therefore, imperative for the jute sector to restructure itself. Diversification would help increase value realisation, production of intermediate raw materials like yarn and fabrics leading to higher employment in the decentralised sectors for production of variegated products. This would lead the renewed demand for jute fibre that would help farmers to realise more remunerative prices for their produce. The Committee has recommended Support for diversification through tnargin money assistance and tie up Arrangements in all allied fields viz; improvement in productivity and quality of raw jute, interface between Entrepreneurs and R&D institutions on the one hand and financial institutions And marketing channels on the other for transfer of technology etc.

Action has already been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Need for Upgradation of Technology for Export of Coir Products

786. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent development of geo-fabrics and coir bolymer composites have opened up new Avenues for export of coir products in a bigway; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have initiated to up-grade the technology with the changing export scenario indicating break-up during the last five years year-Vise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The export of Coir Geo-fabrics has shown a steady growth in the past few years, the figures for which are given below:

However, Poly Coir which is a new broduct developed in collaboration with the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum, has not yet been standardised and its production has also not been commercialised so far.

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	65.93
1991-92	144.93
1992-93 (April—Dec. 1992)	73.14

(b) The Coir Board and the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum are in the process of arranging technology transfer to commercially viable units, for the commercial production of Poly Coir. The expenditure so far incurred on the

development of Poly Goir, comes to Rs. 9.98 lakhs.

No expenditure has so far been incurred on the technology upgradation of Coir Geo-fabrics.

Sick Textile Mills

787. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:
SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down sick textile units which are not viable;

(b) what is the number of textile mills of NTC which can never be viable;

(c) what are the details of the amount sanctioned and spent for the revival of the sick textile mills, state-wise; and

(d) what is the amount of losses at present of NTC mills and what is the total accumulated losses of the NTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills involving modernisation, restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Voluntary Retirement Scheme will also be offered to the officers, staff and workers of such chronically sick mills, which have no possibility of viability and which may have to be closed down or merged with adjacent units to ensure viability. The question of closure or retention of individual mills of "NTC-will depend on the impact on viability of labour rationalisation now being done through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other relevant factors. Government have approved an investment of Rs. 689 crores for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme, Rs. 533 crores for modernisation of NTC mills, Rs. 200 crores for improving the liquidity of NTC mills and Rs: 50 crores for retraining and rehabilitation of workers proceeding on Voluntary Retirement Scheme. However, no state-wise allocation has been made in this regard.

(d) The accumulated losses of NTC mills upto 31st March, 1992 were Rs. 2324 crores. During the period April-November, 1992, NTC mills suffered provisional net loss of Rs. 314 crores.

कपड़ा मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण

788. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम के तहत चलने वाली कपड़ा मिलों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए 5.33 करोड़ रुपए की एक योजना कार्यान्वित करने का निर्णय किया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना को कब तक पूर्ण कर लिए जाने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था; और

(ग) जनवरी, 1993 के अन्त तक कुल कितनी मिलों में आधुनिकीकरण का काम शुरू कर दिया गया था और इस मद के अन्तर्गत कुल कितनी राशि खर्च की गई है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) और (ख) आठवीं योजना अवधि (1992-97) के दौरान एन टी सी मिलों के आधुनिकीकरण पर लगभग 533 करोड़ रु० की धनराशि व्यय करने का प्रस्ताव है।

(ग) उपरोक्त योजना के अन्तर्गत आधुनिकीकरण के 56 प्रस्तावों की पहचान की गई है जिनमें से 40.07 करोड़ रु० के परिव्यय के 3 प्रस्तावों को पहले से ही क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है।

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की मिलों की आर्थिक दृष्टि से जीवनक्षमता

789. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम और बी० आई० सी० की सूती मिलों के 1994-95 तक अर्थक्षम हो जाने की संभावना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में गत वर्ष किए गए कार्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) से (ग) सरकार ने अगस्त, 1992 में एन टी सी और टी आई सी वस्त्र मिलों के लिये एक सर्वांगीण सुधार नीति का अनुमोदन किया है जिसमें